



SATYADHEESH

सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs · 18 September 2026

21

NOTES

2

STORIES MERGED

10

MCQS

GS1 · 1

GS2 · 3

GS3 · 17

PAPER MIX

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS1 History · Society · Geography 1 notes

History & Culture 1

GS2 Polity · Governance · Social Justice · IR 3 notes

Polity & Constitution 1

International Relations 2

GS3 Economy · S&T · Environment · Security 17 notes

Economy 7

Agriculture 1

Science & Technology 8

Internal Security 1

Practice — 10 MCQs

HOW EACH NOTE READS

Why in news → facts to remember → a Mains question with keywords. Duplicate stories are merged.

SHORT ON TIME?

The 5-page **Brief** has the stories that matter most, plus a quiz. Same day, same notes.

History & Culture

1

ART, ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE P

18 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/123176

Karnataka grants Tulu official status and renames Dakshina Kannada district

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka government announced Tulu as the state's second additional administrative language and approved renaming Dakshina Kannada district to Mangaluru.

CONCEPT | Tulu — recognized as the second additional administrative language in Karnataka alongside Kannada

PLACE | Mangaluru — the new name for the Dakshina Kannada district

FIGURE | ₹32,611 crore — amount allocated for coastal region development including medical college and island tourism

MAINS Q Discuss how the recognition of regional languages and cultural identities contributes to the preservation of India's linguistic diversity and social cohesion.

USE: Linguistic diversity Administrative language Cultural identity Regional development Social cohesion

Polity & Constitution

1

ELECTIONS, ECI & ELECTORAL REFORMS

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

18 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/123263

Election Commission allots different symbols to split AITC factions

WHY IN NEWS The Election Commission locked the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) symbol following a factional split between Mamata Banerjee and Arup Roy-Ritabrata Banerjee.

CONCEPT	Party Legitimacy — determined by majority support among MPs and MLAs during internal splits.
BODY	Election Commission of India — constitutional body responsible for allotting and regulating political party symbols.
EVENT	1969 Precedent — established that majority support is a key factor in determining party legitimacy.

MAINS Q Examine the role of the Election Commission in resolving intra-party disputes and the significance of legislative strength in determining political party legitimacy in India.

USE: intra-party democracy electoral legitimacy arbitration political representation constitutional morality

International Relations

2

REGIONAL & GLOBAL GROUPINGS (QUAD, BRICS, SCO, G20...)

P

M

18 Sep · Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/122976

Russia and China veto US-backed Iran sanctions resolution at UN

WHY IN NEWS Russia and China vetoed a US-backed UN Security Council resolution to extend the mandate for monitoring sanctions on Iran, which Iran characterized as a politically motivated move by the West.

CONCEPT	Snapback Mechanism — a provision in the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA) allowing the restoration of previous UN sanctions.
CONCEPT	P5 Members — China, France, Russia, UK, and USA hold permanent seats and veto power in the UNSC.
BODY	UN Security Council — the body responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

MAINS Q Analyze how the use of the veto power by permanent members of the UN Security Council impacts the efficacy of international sanctions regimes.

USE: Veto Power Sanctions Regime Snapback Mechanism Multilateralism Geopolitical Alignment

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

P

18 Sep · Times of India · satyadheesh.in/news/123158

US offers \$15M reward to dismantle IRGC illicit financial networks

WHY IN NEWS The US Department of State offered a \$15 million reward through its 'Rewards for Justice' programme to identify the IRGC's secretive financial networks and methods for evading sanctions.

BODY	IRGC: The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is an elite branch of the Iranian Armed Forces.
BODY	IRGC-QF: The Qods Force is the branch responsible for regional operations and support to groups like Hamas and Hezbollah.
FIGURE	\$15 million: The reward offered by the US Department of State for information on IRGC financial networks.
CONCEPT	Sanction evasion: Tactics used by IRGC to bypass restrictions via front companies and illicit fund transfers.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of illicit financial networks and front companies in bypassing international sanctions and financing non-state actors in the Middle East.

USE: Sanctions evasion Terror financing Financial intelligence Non-state actors Illicit financial networks

Economy

7

INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & MSMEs

P

M

18 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/123265

India approves 12 semiconductor plants to boost domestic electronics hub

WHY IN NEWS Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reported progress on India's semiconductor ambitions, noting that five of the twelve approved plants are now operational.

FIGURE | 5 out of 12 approved semiconductor plants are currently operational

FIGURE | 70,000 design engineers trained to support the domestic electronics manufacturing hub

PLACE | Semicon India event held in New Delhi

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of developing a domestic semiconductor ecosystem for India's economic sovereignty and technological advancement.

USE: Semiconductor ecosystem

Strategic autonomy

Capital intensive

Design engineering

Supply chain resilience

GROWTH, INFLATION & MACRO INDICATORS

P

M

18 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/122896

India's economy crosses \$4 trillion mark through structural reforms

WHY IN NEWS The article highlights India's economic expansion to a \$4.15 trillion nominal GDP by 2026 under 'Modinomics' reforms, while noting persistent challenges in job creation.

CONCEPT | Modinomics — economic trajectory involving structural reforms, GST, and UPI expansion.

FIGURE | Nominal GDP — crossed the \$4 trillion mark from \$2 trillion in 2014.

FIGURE | Real GDP growth — recorded at 7.8% in the April–June quarter of FY27.

SCHEME | PLI (Production Linked Incentive) — schemes used to boost domestic manufacturing.

CONCEPT | Fragile Five — previous categorization of India as an emerging market.

MAINS Q Analyze the impact of 'Modinomics' on India's infrastructure and digital economy, and discuss the challenges in translating GDP growth into large-scale job creation.

USE: Modinomics

Nominal GDP

Production Linked Incentive

Digital Payments

Infrastructure Spending

CAPITAL MARKETS & SEBI

P

M

2 REPORTS MERGED

18 Sep · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/123136

SEBI bars Kore Digital leadership over ₹541 crore revenue misstatement

WHY IN NEWS Sebi barred the MD, CEO, and CFO of Kore Digital from capital markets and prohibited the firm from raising public funds over allegations of a Rs 541 crore revenue misstatement.

BODY | SEBI — Primary regulator for the securities market in India

CONCEPT | Shell companies — Entities used to inflate revenue through forged audit reports

FIGURE | ₹541 crore — Amount of revenue allegedly misstated by Kore Digital

BODY | NSE — Migration to the mainboard is subject to regulatory clearance

MAINS Q Examine the regulatory challenges in curbing corporate fraud and revenue inflation in the capital markets. How can forensic auditing strengthen investor protection?

USE: Corporate Governance

Forensic Audit

Market Integrity

Regulatory Enforcement

Shell Companies

SEBI to examine discount brokers' concerns over new UPI MDR

WHY IN NEWS SEBI is set to examine concerns from discount brokers regarding a new UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) of 0.02% on capital market transactions starting October 15.

BODY	SEBI — Primary regulator for capital markets in India
CONCEPT	UPI MDR — 0.02% fee on capital market transactions capped at ₹300
DATE	15 October — Implementation date for the new UPI MDR

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of transaction costs on the growth of retail participation in capital markets and the role of regulatory bodies in balancing infrastructure costs with investor accessibility.

USE: Merchant Discount Rate Capital Market Retail Participation Regulatory Oversight Financial Infrastructure

Government implements 0.4% MDR on UPI transactions above ₹2,000

WHY IN NEWS The Modi government is implementing a 0.4% Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions above Rs 2,000 while ensuring costs are not passed to customers.

CONCEPT	Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) — A 0.4% fee on person-to-merchant UPI transactions above ₹2,000.
CONCEPT	P2P Transactions — Person-to-person UPI transactions remain free of charge.
BODY	Payment aggregators and banks — Tasked with daily compliance monitoring to prevent cost-shifting to customers.
DATE	15 October — The date from which the new MDR applies.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of introducing Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on UPI transactions for the growth of India's digital payment ecosystem.

USE: Digital Public Infrastructure Merchant Discount Rate Financial Inclusion Compliance Monitoring Payment Aggregators

SEBI study shows retail traders' net losses in equity derivatives drop

WHY IN NEWS SEBI released a study revealing that while aggregate net losses of individual traders in equity derivatives fell to ₹91,685 crore in FY26, 88% of individual traders still incurred losses.

BODY	SEBI — Primary regulator for the securities market in India
FIGURE	88% — Percentage of individual traders in the equity derivatives segment who incurred losses
CONCEPT	Algorithmic trading — Provides a structural advantage to larger market participants over retail traders
FIGURE	₹91,685 crore — Aggregate net losses of individual traders in equity derivatives in FY26

MAINS Q Discuss the structural inequalities in capital markets between retail traders and institutional players using algorithmic trading, and suggest measures to protect retail investors.

USE: market integrity algorithmic trading retail participation regulatory intervention information asymmetry

New proposal suggests capping UPI MDR charges to protect customers

WHY IN NEWS The Indian government proposed capping UPI MDR charges at Rs 300 for transactions exceeding Rs 75,000, to be borne by merchants instead of customers.

CONCEPT	UPI MDR — Merchant Discount Rate charges on digital transactions
FIGURE	Rs 300 — Proposed cap on UPI MDR for transactions above Rs 75,000
FIGURE	Rs 75,000 — Transaction threshold for the proposed UPI MDR cap

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of capping UPI MDR charges on the growth of the digital payment ecosystem and the profitability of small-scale merchants.

USE: UPI MDR Digital Payments Capital Markets Merchant Discount Rate Financial Inclusion

Agriculture

1

Andhra Pradesh implements AgriStack and APAIMS 2.0 for digital agriculture

WHY IN NEWS Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu highlighted the state's progress in digital agriculture initiatives

SCHEME	AgriStack: A digital infrastructure providing unique Farmer IDs to streamline agricultural services.
CONCEPT	APAIMS 2.0: A system facilitating digital fertilizer distribution to optimize resource management.
SCHEME	PM-KISAN: A central scheme providing income support to small and marginal farmers.
FIGURE	31% reduction in urea consumption achieved through APAIMS 2.0 digital distribution.

MAINS Q Examine how digital infrastructure like AgriStack and APAIMS can enhance the efficiency of fertilizer distribution and ensure targeted subsidy delivery to farmers.

USE: AgriStack Digital Agriculture Precision Farming Subsidy Leakage Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Science & Technology

8

HAL hands over indigenous Tejas twin-seater and HTT-40 aircraft to IAF

WHY IN NEWS Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over LCA Tejas Final Operational Clearance (FOC) twin-seater trainers, HTT-40 basic trainers, and Dhruv next-generation helicopters to the IAF and Pawan Hans.

CONCEPT	Atmanirbhar Bharat: The goal of achieving self-reliance in defense and civil aviation through indigenous manufacturing.
BODY	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): The entity responsible for developing and delivering the indigenous aircraft.
CONCEPT	HTT-40 (Ankur): An indigenous basic trainer aircraft developed by HAL.
CONCEPT	LCA Tejas FOC: The Final Operational Clearance version of India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft.
FIGURE	70 aircraft: The total number of HTT-40 aircraft to be delivered under the specific contract.

MAINS Q Discuss how the indigenization of aerospace platforms like the LCA Tejas and HTT-40 contributes to India's strategic autonomy and the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

USE: Atmanirbhar Bharat Strategic Autonomy Indigenization Aerospace Engineering Defense Procurement

David Baker uses AI to design synthetic molecules not found in nature

WHY IN NEWS The Allen Institute and David Baker are utilizing AI-driven bio-design to create synthetic molecules not found in nature to treat diseases and address environmental issues.

PERSON	David Baker — 2024 Nobel Prize winner for protein design
CONCEPT	AI BioDesign — uses computational screening and lab testing to design molecules not found in nature
BODY	Allen Institute — key collaborator in the AI BioDesign project
CONCEPT	Synthetic Biology applications — includes cancer treatment, neurodegenerative disorders, and ocean plastic degradation

MAINS Q Discuss how AI-driven synthetic biology can revolutionize healthcare and environmental sustainability while addressing the ethical risks of creating non-natural molecules.

USE: Synthetic Biology AI BioDesign Dual-use Research Biosecurity Computational Screening

Humpback whale documented exhibiting grief-like behavior toward stillborn calf

WHY IN NEWS Researchers documented a first-of-its-kind scientific recording of a mother humpback whale exhibiting behavior suggesting grief or confusion by repeatedly returning to her stillborn calf off Australia's Gold Coast.

CONCEPT	Baleen whale: A group of large marine mammals to which humpback whales belong.
PLACE	Gold Coast: A coastal region in Queensland, Australia where the observation occurred.
DATE	July 2025: The month the first-of-its-kind scientific observation was documented.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of documenting non-human emotional behaviors in marine biology and its implications for marine conservation strategies.

USE: Marine Biology Ethology Baleen Whales Conservation Science Behavioral Documentation

Conservationists use Millennium Seed Bank to save Chilean tree daisy

WHY IN NEWS Kew's Millennium Seed Bank collected seeds from the last known wild *Dendroseris neriifolia* tree on Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile, to prevent its extinction.

CONCEPT	Ex-situ conservation: Preserving species outside their natural habitats, such as in seed banks.
BODY	Millennium Seed Bank: Managed by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to conserve global plant genetic resources.
PLACE	Robinson Crusoe Island: Location in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Chile where the last wild daisy was found.
CONCEPT	<i>Dendroseris neriifolia</i> : A critically endangered tree daisy species native to Chile.

MAINS Q Discuss the role of international seed banks and collaborative conservation efforts in preserving critically endangered flora against habitat degradation and invasive species.

USE: ex-situ conservation biodiversity loss critically endangered genetic preservation invasive species

Australian researchers grow and consume edible fungi in space

WHY IN NEWS Australian researchers confirmed the viability of edible fungi (lion's mane, turkey's tail, and cordyceps) after they were grown in space on the ISS and returned to Earth.

- CONCEPT** | Lion's mane, turkey's tail, and cordyceps are types of edible fungi/mycelium.
- MISSION** | SpaceX Falcon 9 is a reusable rocket used for transporting cargo and crew to the ISS.
- FIGURE** | 36 vials of mycelium were kept in space for nearly a month.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of space-based agriculture in ensuring long-term human habitation and food security during deep-space missions.

USE: Space Agriculture Microgravity Biology Food Security Space Exploration Mycelium Growth

Iberian lynx population recovers to over 2,000 through conservation

WHY IN NEWS The Iberian lynx population recovery was highlighted as a success story of conservation programs, moving the species from 'Endangered' to 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.

- CONCEPT** | IUCN Red List: A global list of species status, currently listing the Iberian lynx as Vulnerable.
- CONCEPT** | Captive breeding and habitat restoration: Key strategies used to reverse extinction trends.
- FIGURE** | Population growth: Increased from 62 mature individuals in 2001 to over 2,000 by 2022.

MAINS Q Examine how integrated conservation strategies, including captive breeding and habitat restoration, can effectively mitigate the risk of extinction for critically endangered species.

USE: Biodiversity conservation In-situ and ex-situ conservation Habitat fragmentation Species recovery IUCN Red List

AI models show potential for designing novel viral genomes and bioweapons

WHY IN NEWS Researchers and tech firms are debating the risk of AI-driven bioweapons development, with Anthropic reporting attempts to misuse its Claude model for such purposes.

- CONCEPT** | DNA Synthesis — The process of creating new DNA strands, a key area for proposed security protocols.
- CONCEPT** | Dual-use technology — AI's potential to be used for both beneficial and harmful purposes like bioweapon development.
- PERSON** | Anthropic — An AI safety and research company that developed the Claude LLM.
- BODY** | Stanford University and the Arc Institute — Key research bodies involved in AI-bioweapon risk modeling.

MAINS Q Discuss the dual-use dilemma of Artificial Intelligence in biotechnology and suggest regulatory frameworks to prevent the weaponization of synthetic biology.

USE: dual-use dilemma synthetic biology biosecurity algorithmic governance technological risk

AI companies call for slowdown to mitigate hacking risks

WHY IN NEWS Leading AI companies called for a coordinated 'slowdown' in development due to hacking fears and safety concerns, sparking fears of antitrust violations under the Sherman Act.

CONCEPT	AI Agent Swarms: A collective of autonomous AI agents capable of performing coordinated tasks like cyberattacks.
ACT	Sherman Act: A United States antitrust law prohibiting monopolies and conspiracies in restraint of trade.
CONCEPT	Antitrust Scrutiny: The risk that coordinated safety slowdowns could be viewed as agreements to restrain trade.

MAINS Q Discuss the tension between rapid AI innovation and safety protocols, and evaluate the regulatory challenges in preventing anti-competitive behavior in the AI sector.

USE: Antitrust AI Safety Sherman Act Market Competition Cybersecurity

Internal Security

1

Delhi High Court grants bail to UK national Jagtar Singh Johal

WHY IN NEWS The Delhi High Court granted bail to UK national Jagtar Singh Johal in seven NIA-investigated anti-terror cases after he spent over eight years in custody.

BODY	NIA — National Investigation Agency is the primary counter-terrorism agency in India.
PLACE	Delhi High Court — High Court with jurisdiction over the capital territory.
PERSON	Jagtar Singh Johal — A UK national involved in anti-terror cases investigated by the NIA.

MAINS Q Discuss the judicial balance between the state's power to detain individuals for national security and the fundamental right to a speedy trial.

USE: Judicial Review National Security Right to Speedy Trial NIA Due Process

10 questions, 10 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

- 1** Which indigenous aircraft is being developed by HAL as a basic trainer?
- (a) HTT-40 (Ankur) (b) Mirage 2000
(c) Rafale (d) Su-30 MKI
-
- 2** How many design engineers has the Indian government successfully trained to support the domestic electronics manufacturing hub?
- (a) 70,000 (b) 1,00,000
(c) 1,50,000 (d) 50,000
-
- 3** With reference to AI-driven protein design and synthetic biology, consider the following statements:
1. The AI BioDesign initiative is led by the Indian Institute of Science.
 2. David Baker won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for protein design.
 3. AI BioDesign is used exclusively for treating neurodegenerative disorders.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 2 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
-
- 4** With reference to the Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA) and the UN Security Council, consider the following statements:
1. The P5 members include China, France, Russia, UK, and Germany.
 2. The Snapback Mechanism allows for the restoration of previous UN sanctions.
 3. The vetoed resolution aimed to extend the mandate for monitoring sanctions on Iran.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) 2 and 3 only
-
- 5** With reference to India's economic growth and structural reforms, consider the following statements:
1. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes are designed to boost domestic manufacturing.
 2. India's nominal GDP was recorded at \$3 trillion in 2014.
 3. India's real GDP growth was recorded at 7.8% in the April-June quarter of FY25.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
-
- 6** Which constitutional body is responsible for allotting and regulating political party symbols in India?
- (a) Reserve Bank of India (b) Election Commission of India
(c) Ministry of Home Affairs (d) NITI Aayog
-
- 7** With reference to the SEBI action against Kore Digital, consider the following statements:
1. SEBI barred the MD, CEO, and CFO of Kore Digital from trading company shares and raising public funds.
 2. The regulatory action was taken because the firm successfully migrated to the NSE mainboard.
 3. The firm was accused of inflating revenue by ₹541 crore through the use of shell companies.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 2 and 3 only
-

8 With reference to the NIA and the recent bail order, consider the following statements:

1. The Delhi High Court granted bail after the individual spent over 8 years in custody.
2. Jagtar Singh Johal was a local resident involved in the cases.
3. The NIA is the primary counter-terrorism agency in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

9 With reference to digital agriculture initiatives in Andhra Pradesh, consider the following statements:

1. The state achieved 95% of its target for Farmer IDs under AgriStack.
2. APAIMS 2.0 facilitated digital fertilizer distribution for 24.69 lakh farmers.
3. AgriStack is a digital infrastructure designed to provide unique Farmer IDs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 3 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 2 and 3 only

10 With reference to the recent administrative changes in Karnataka, consider the following statements:

1. The government sanctioned ₹32,611 crore for the development of the Himalayan region.
2. The Dakshina Kannada district is being renamed to Mangaluru district.
3. Tulu has been recognized as the first additional administrative language in the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWERS • 1 (a) 2 (a) 3 (a) 4 (d) 5 (a) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8 (c) 9 (d) 10 (d)



TELEGRAM



WEBSITE

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